

Conference call notes

27 April 2017

Attendees	
Margaret Kitching (MK) [NHS England]	Stephen Cross (SC) [Countess of Chester]
Vince Connolly (VC) [NHSI]	Ian Harvey (IH) [Countess of Chester]

Discussion

MK gave a brief overview of the commissioner concerns around not understanding the full picture regarding the deaths, this is because they don't feel that they have had full access to the detail of the investigations, and it is the senior clinicians in Specialised Commissioning that believe the police should now be involved to seek an opinion.

VC asked if IH could provide details of the consequences of the CDOP meeting and bring us up-to-date with the current position

IH explained that he was unsure why the commissioners felt this way as he had met with MG, AB and LP and updated them accordingly

IH also explained about the sensationalist story reported in the Sunday times which caused further upset to some of the families and therefore it was important information sharing was kept to a minimum

IH explained that the unit was downgraded to a level 1 service as a result of this incident to ensure safety until this was fully resolved, there has only been 1 death since then and this was an expected death, therefore they believe the unit is safe.

IH explained that the incident occurred as a result of a Paediatrician and neonatologist alert re numbers of deaths in the unit, which resulted in the Trust commissioning the RCPCH to undertake an investigation into all the deaths. There was no single factor identified rather it was multi-factorial. It was recommended that an investigation into each of the deaths was undertaken, this was completed by an independent expert who did not identify any significant additional issues.

It was determined that a single member of the nursing staff were on duty and attended to most of the cases, but not all, and her full time status meant that this was probably not unusual

The Trust also sought an independent Legal opinion, on evidence so far, and the findings were that they could not see any evidence of criminality

The Independent reviewer identified out of all of the deaths that 4 were unexplained and